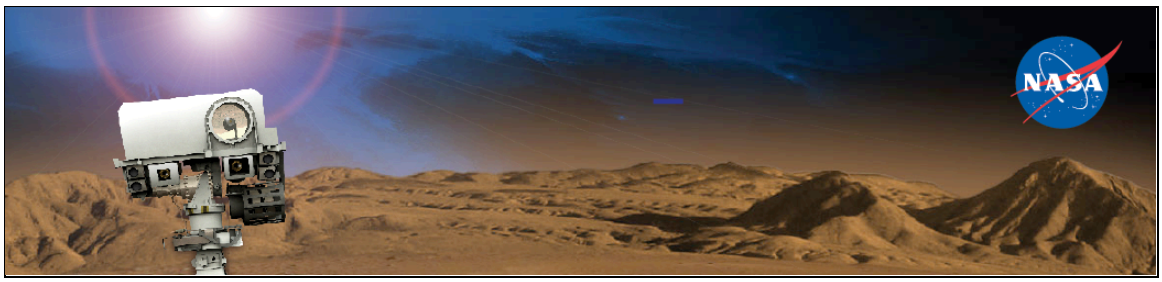

NASA IS PREPARING TO LAND THE MARS ROVER NAMED CURIOSITY!

Below are some ways to bring Curiosity to your audiences this summer or on landing night (Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012, at 10:31 PM PDT/Aug. 6, 1:31 AM EDT).

MARS GAZING: HOST AN EVENT TO VIEW MARS IN THE NIGHT SKY PRIOR TO THE CURIOSITY ROVER LANDING!

On Aug. 5, 2012, at 10:31 P.M. PDT/Aug. 6, 1:31 A.M. EDT, one can observe Mars in the night sky with a telescope or with the naked eye. At sunset, Mars will sit low in the western sky just above the horizon. Viewers will be able to see the orange planet Mars in between Saturn and the bright star Spica. At this point in its orbit, Mars will be roughly 300 million miles away from Earth and the Curiosity rover will be only hours away from arriving at this distant orange dot in the night sky.

FOLLOW YOUR CURIOSITY: NEW WAYS TO EXPLORE MARS

A "Virtual Rover Experience" and an Xbox video game are among the options for public participation in NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission. There are other ways to participate, see: http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/participate/ .

WATCH THE LANDING

ON THE WEB

Landing Coverage begins at 9:00 P.M. PDT (12:00 A.M. EDT) on the following websites:

- **Curiosity Mission Website:** http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/
- **NASA TV On the Web:** http://www.nasa.gov/ntv .

ON CABLE

• NASA TV is available through most cable providers. Contact your local cable or satellite service provider about carrying the NASA TV channel. For more information check the frequently asked questions about NASA TV:
http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/nasatv/faq.html .

NON-NASA SITES

This partial list of non-NASA sites may carry the NASA Television on the web from time to time. This list is provided solely as a service to web users. NASA cannot guarantee the availability of the service or the accuracy of the information on non-NASA web sites.

- Ustream TV
- CNN
- Fox Online
- MSNBC
- Space.com

RESOURCES: GENERAL MISSION INFO

ON THE WEB

Information about NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission, including an electronic copy of the press kit, press releases, status reports and images, is available at:
http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl .

SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/marscuriosity
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/marscuriosity

HANDS-ON SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

Lesson plans are available at:
http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/participate/marsforeducators/soi/

Short 1-3 Hour Activities:

Earth And Mars as a Place for Life: Students construct scale models of Earth, Moon, & Mars to discover size and scale. Associated Mars Information Slideshow: Through a PowerPoint Presentation, students learn about the environmental constraints that would affect human habitation of Mars

Soda Straw Rockets: By building rockets out of simple drinking straws, students investigate how variations in a rocket's nose cone influences distance of flight.

Marsbound: By playing an interactive card game, students create a mission that balances science return with mission constraints.

Strange, New Planet: This hands-on lesson using play dough engages students in the way in which humans explore planets through a variety of missions from Earth-based telescopes to rovers.

Lava Layering: By creating models of lava flows with play dough, students analyze the layers that form on a planet to understand its history.

Mars Image Analysis: Students use orbital images of Mars to analyze its environment.

Mystery Planet: After receiving crustal samples, students observe the characteristics and make inferences about the history of an unknown planet, including whether it might have life.

Rover Races: Working in small teams, students pretend to be a rover and learn the constraints of operating a rover on Mars.

Question Mars: Students pose questions related to the study of Mars and evaluate the quality of their questions.

1-5 Day Activities:

The Imagine Mars Project: imaginemars.jpl.nasa.gov

The Imagine Mars project allows participants to imagine and design communities on Mars. This challenge requires users to identify the physical and cultural elements that help communities thrive on Earth, then try and adapt these elements into a community design that responds to the challenges of the Mars environment. Participants are encouraged to express their ideas and solutions through an art or humanities project. Past projects include mural painting, 3D architectural modeling, robot design, creative writing, playwriting, theater, songwriting, music videos, and more.